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Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, FR, UR, US

SUBJECT: US SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS TO USSR - IL 1565

REF: A) OECD PARIS 1159, B) OECD PARIS 561, C) COCOM DOC (75)2597

USDEL REQUESTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING REPLY TO FRENCH QUESTIONS:

1. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HOLDS CONSIGNEE/USER STATEMENTS ATTESTING THAT THE TWO SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS WILL ONLY BE USED FOR THE AVOWED PURPOSE.

2. THE SHIPS "KOMSOMOLSK" AND "MAGNITOGORSK" ARE COMMERCIAL CONTAINER SHIPS OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000 GROSS TONS.
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3. THE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS RECEIVE SIGNALS FROM THE U.S. NAVY SATELLITE SYSTEM (TRANSIT), WHICH IS USED ON AN UNRESTRICTED BASIS FOR SHIP NAVIGATION.

4. POSITION FIXES FROM THE TRANSIT SYSTEM OCCUR AT INTERVALS OF 1-2 HOURS AS A TRANSIT SATELLITE PASSES THE USER LOCATION. USE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION REQUIRES THAT THE ANTENNA BE ABOVE THE SURFACE OF WATER FOR EXTENDED TIME PERIODS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A POSITION FIX, AS THE TIME OF THE PASSING OF THE SATELLITES IS A RANDOM DISTRIBUTION. FURTHER, THE MX-902A/750 SYSTEM DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO PREDICT THE TIME OF SATELLITE PASSAGE. ADDITION OF THIS CAPABILITY WOULD REQUIRE BOTH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE CHANGES. SOFTWARE CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SUPPLIER. THIS REQUIREMENT POSES AN OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINT NOT COMPATIBLE WITH SUBMARINE MISSIONS.

5. THE ANTENNA/PREAMPLIFIER ASSEMBLY, INCLUDED WITH THE MX-902A/750 SYSTEM, IS DESIGNED FOR USE ON SURFACE SHIPS ONLY. THIS UNIT WOULD SUFFER GREAT DAMAGE RENDERING IT INOPERATIVE IF IT SUBMERGED TO ANY DEPTH GREATER THAN A FEW FEET.

6. THIS EQUIPMENT HAS THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE A POSITION FIX WITH AN ACCURACY OF APPROXIMATELY 1/4 NAUTICAL MILE (1 SIGMA). HOWEVER, THIS POSITION FIX IS OF A PERIODIC NATURE, AND THE USER MUST REVERT TO DEAD RECKONING NAVIGATION BETWEEN POSITION FIXES. AS THE INTERVAL BETWEEN POSITION FIXES NORMALLY RANGES FROM 1-2 HOURS, DEAD RECKONING NAVIGATION WILL NORMALLY INTRODUCE ERRORS ON THE ORDER OF ONE MILE PER HOUR.

7. THE COMPUTER PROGRAM EMPLOYED IN THE MX902A/750 SYSTEM IS WRITTEN IN MACHINE LANGUAGE AND IS ASSEMBLED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE A DETAILED UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROGRAM TECHNIQUES NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. THE U.S. FIRM CONSIDERS THE SOFTWARE HIGHLY PROPRIETARY, AND IT IS AGAINST THE COMPANY'S POLICY TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF THE SOFTWARE.
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8. SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS DEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR SUBMARINE USE INCLUDE A MANUAL TUNING CAPABILITY AND AN ALERT CAPABILITY (PREDICTION OF SATELLITE ARRIVAL TIMES), WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE MX 902A/750 SYSTEM, IN ADDITION TO ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITATIONS ON THE ANTENNA SYSTEM. KISSINGER

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